



Pat Quinn, Governor
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.idph.state.il.us

November 19, 2009

Michael McGeehin, PhD, MSPH
Director, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Hwy, MS F-58
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Dr. McGeehin,

On August 21, 2009, Mr. Kenneth Koehler, Chairman of McHenry County Board in Illinois, wrote you to request your assistance with a public health assessment of cancer cases in McHenry County, focusing on the county's McCullom Lake area. In your response, you indicated that upon request of the Illinois Department of Public Health, CDC would review the cancer cluster investigations that were conducted.

We support the county's request and by sending this letter we formally request your assistance. Working together with county staffs, we have compiled the attached documents, data sheets, presentations, technical discussions and other correspondence for your review. Please note that, while many documents are in the public domain, some documents do contain personal information and/or other easily identifiable attributes of cancer patients and are therefore confidential.

If you have any questions concerning the attachments or would like to follow up on any particular issues, please contact:

Dr. Tiefu Shen
Chief, Division of Epidemiologic Studies
Illinois Department of Public Health
605 W. Jefferson St.
Springfield, IL 62761
217-785-1873

Sincerely,

Craig Conover, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Illinois Department of Public Health

cc: Kenneth Koehler, Chairman, McHenry County Board
Patrick McNulty, Administrator, McHenry County Health Department
Senator Pamela J. Althoff
Representative Jack Franks

Encl: Appendices A-K

Appendix A

Timeline of contacts/inquiries documented by IDPH

Appendix B

Study issues summarized by IDPH

Appendix C

Plaintiffs in lawsuit as reported by news articles as of 10/6/09

Appendix D

IDPH data

General information sheets sent to McHenry County epidemiologists

Cancer: Basic Facts

Cancer and Your Environment

Proving Causality

Rates for geographic areas smaller than a county

Interpretation of Cancer Data

6/2/06 to Sherrie Gallas

9/25/08 to Kaillie Kaufmann

7/27/09 to Kristen Harrison

Cancer Rates/Technical correspondence

1/23/06 citizen request - IL and McHenry County data 1998-2002

5/3/06 to Gallas – glioblastomas IL McHenry County 1994-2003

5/25/06 to Gallas – oligodendroglioma IL McHenry County 1994-2003

6/2/06 to Gallas - IL and McHenry County data 1999-2003

12/21/07 to Kaufmann - IL and McHenry County data 2000-2004

1/8/08 to Kaufmann – no new oligodendrogliomas or glioblastomas

7/3/08 to Kaufmann - IL and McHenry County data 2001-2005

7/7/08 to Kaufmann – IL McHenry County SEER9 – data for comparison

8/5/08 to Kaufmann – McHenry 2000-04 cf 2001-05 SRR with CI

8/5/08 to Kaufmann – data interpretation

9/25/08 to Kaufmann – data interpretation

7/27/09 to Harrison – IL McHenry Co. – 1992-2006 total cancers and CNS

7/27/09 to Harrison - IL and McHenry County data 2002-2006

7/27/09 to Harrison – frequencies ZIPS 60050 60051 1987-06

7/27/09 to Harrison -IL McHenry Co. – 1992-06 total cancers/CNS by sex

8/19/09 letter from McHenry County to IDPH re: cancer statistics for the county

9/8/09 IDPH response explaining county rates and reasons why analysis could not be reliably done for the McCullom Lake area

Record-level public data sets (made available to county health department)

V13 1986-03 data as of 11/05 released 4/06

V14 1986-04 data as of 11/06 released 4/07

V15 1986-05 data as of 11/07 released 4/08

V16 1986-06 data as of 11/08 released 4/09

Data from interactive query on website

V13 state 1986-03, county/ZIP 1999-03, 1994-98, 1989-93

V14 state 1986-04, county/ZIP 2000-04, 1995-99, 1990-94
 V15 state 1986-05, county/ZIP 2001-05, 1996-00, 1991-95, 1986-90
 V16 state 1986-06, county/ZIP 2002-06, 1997-01, 1992-96, 1987-91
 1/31/08 Letter from Senator Althoff to IDPH potential cancer cluster
 3/20/08 IDPH response - information on availability of data and contacts with
 county
 Data to respond to IL Attorney General
 12/29/08 e-mail to IDPH from Attorney General's Office
 12/30/08 response from IDPH
 12/30/08 rates CNS, glioblastomas, oligodendrogliomas 1994-05
 8/7/09 Response to Kevin Craver, Northwest Herald, for protected data
 Observed and expected rates for 2002-06 and 1997-06 McHenry Co
 and 1997-06 for 60050 (McCullom Lake) – protected data
 oligodendroglioma
 glioblastoma
 pituitary gland
 liver
 hepatocellular carcinoma
 angiosarcoma

Appendix E

Cancer assessments, reports and presentations by McHenry County
 5/22/06 Gallas – Brain Cancer Statistic and Cluster Investigations
 8/06 Gallas – survey of McCullom Lake Residents
 8/06 Gallas – Analysis of Brain Cancer Incidence Among McCullom Lake Res.
 12/21/07 McNulty – Due diligence Exerted in Investigation
 3/24/08 Kaufmann – Cancer Rates for McHenry Co. 2000-04
 4/25/08 Kaufmann – Brain Cancer Statistics: Revisited
 9/22/08 Kaufmann – Brain Cancer Statistics: updated 2001-2005
 8/21/09 Koehler – letter to CDC requesting Public Health Assessment
 10/5/09 CDC response – forward documents to IDPH and IDPH needs to request
 assistance from CDC
 10/13/09 Koehler – to IDPH requesting meeting to discuss CDC response

Appendix F

IEPA

6/10/09 IEPA response to McHenry County request for updated water data

Appendix G

ATSDR – Health consultation

 6/22/06 McHenry Co. request for Health Consultation
 10/6/06 IDPH response on behalf of ATSDR

Appendix H

Ground Water Assessment

 May 2006 – McHenry Co. – Industrial Sites, Ringwood
 May 2006 – McHenry Co. – Spring Grove
 Map of areas

May 2006 water samples McCullom Lake area
6/26/09 McHenry County letter to Illinois State Water Survey
9/8/06 response from Illinois State Water Survey
June and July 2007 water samples McCullom Lake area
May 2008 water samples McCullom Lake area
May 2009 water samples McCullom Lake area

Appendix I

Modine Facility

Appendix J

Rohm Haas

Fact Sheet – groundwater cleanup at Ringwood Site
December 2005 – Semi-annual groundwater monitoring report

Appendix K

July 1992 – McHenry County Environmental Diagnostic/Feasibility Study of McCullom Lake